

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04

AEC-11 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /162 W

----- 058114

R 111404Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0977

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MCAP, EEC, US

SUBJECT: U.S./EUROPEAN RELATIONS

BEGIN SUMMARY: WEEKEND GERMAN PRESS REPORTS REFLECT
ATMOSPHERE OF CONSTERNATION IN BONN OVER STATE OF
COMMUNITY AND ATLANTIC RELATIONS AND PUZZLEMENT OVER
WHAT IS TO BE DONE. EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE IS TO MEET
HERE FOR SOMEWHAT ABBREVIATED MEETING MARCH 12-13,
GERMAN WEU PARLIAMENTARIANS IN WASHINGTON ARE COMPLAIN-
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ING OF CHANGE IN CLIMATE AND LIKELY 30,000 MAN U.S.

TROOP CUTS IN NEXT YEAR, AND THERE IS ONE REPORT OF A REVIVAL OF INSTITUTIONALIZED CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE IDEA. BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN IS DUE HERE NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY

1. WEEKEND GERMAN PRESS REPORTS REFLECT THE BONN ATMOSPHERE OF CONSTERNATION REGARDING THE STATE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ATLANTIC RELATIONS AND PUZZLEMENT OVER WHAT IS TO BE DONE. THE PRESS NOTES THAT FRG SPOKESMAN VON WECHMAR HAS IN HIS LAST TWO PRESS CONFERENCES DODGED ALL QUESTIONS CONCERNING CRITICAL U.S. STATEMENTS ON THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, INDICATING THAT HE DID NOT WISH FURTHER TO AGGRAVATE RELATIONS. AT HIS FRIDAY PRESS CONFERENCE, WECHMAR REFERRED TO A MARCH 7 RADIO INTERVIEW BY SCHEEL, THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH WAS CHARACTERIZED BY ONE OBSERVER AS "SOAPSUDS."

2. WHILE SCHEEL'S INTERVIEW AGAIN INTONED FRG ALLEGIANCE TO BOTH THE ALLIANCE AND THE COMMUNITY, DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER SPOKE OUT VIGOROUSLY DURING A WEEKEND RADIO INTERVIEW CONCERNING THE NEED FOR CLOSEST RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND THE INDISPENSABILITY OF NATO. LEBER SAID THAT "EVEN AN ESTABLISHED WEST EUROPEAN POLITICAL COMMUNITY" COULD NOT PREVAIL WITHOUT AN ALLIANCE WITH AMERICA. THE FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU REPORTS THAT FONOFF STATE SECRETARY APEL TOLD AN SPD PARTY EXECUTIVE MEETING MARCH 8 THAT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT TAKES THE CURRENT ATLANTIC DISCORD MOST SERIOUSLY AND IS WORKING TO REDUCE TENSION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EC AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. APEL REPORTEDLY REJECTED SUGGESTIONS THAT FRG ASSUME ROLE OF "EUROPEAN LEADER," HOWEVER, ASSERTING THAT "EUROPE DOES NOT NEED A LEADER BUT RATHER, AT LAST, RECOGNITION OF ITS OWN ACTUAL INTERESTS."

3. IN RELATED BONN GENERAL ANZEIGER ARTICLE, WOLF BELL REPORTED THAT FRG INTENDED TO SUGGEST TO ITS EC PARTNERS THAT THE COMMUNITY UNDERTAKE "A REGULAR, CONTINUOUS INFORMING OF THE USG OVER DEVELOPMENTS AND DECISIONS IN THE EC." BELL CITES THESE SOURCES AS BELIEVING THAT

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CONTACTS BETWEEN THE EC AND WASHINGTON HAVE NOT DEVELOPED
IN THE SAME MEASURE AS BILATERAL CONTACTS. THIS AND MOST
OTHER PRESS ARTICLES FURTHER REPORT, HOWEVER, THAT
GERMAN OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THE USG WAS FULLY INFORMED
IN ADVANCE OF EC PLANS FOR COOPERATION WITH THE ARAB
WORLD. BELL WRITES OF "THE SUSPICION THAT THE LATEST
WASHINGTON ATTACKS HAVE THE GOAL OF ESTABLISHING AN
OBLIGATORY CONSULTATION PROCEDURE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND
EC." COMMENT: RELIABLE FONOFF SOURCE ACKNOWLEDGES
THAT BELL'S REPORT OF FRG INTENTIONS RECALL BRANDT'S
EARLIER IDEA FOR "INSTITUTIONALIZED CONSTRUCTIVE
DIALOGUE" AND EC PARIS SUMMIT REFERENCE TO CONSTRUCTIVE
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DIALOGUE; BUT SOURCE SAYS HE IS UNAWARE OF IMPENDING

INITIATIVE TO REVIVE THIS IDEA. TO EXTENT IDEA INVOLVES CONCEPT OF "PRIOR CONSULTATIONS," SOURCE BELIEVES IT WOULD LIKELY MEET WITH RESISTANCE FROM FRENCH AND OTHER EC PARTNERS. END COMMENT.

4. PRESS ALSO GAVE BROAD PLAY TO COMMENTS MADE BY BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES GEORG KAHN-ACKERMANN (SPD) AND EGON KLEPSCH (CDU) WHO ARE VISITING WASHINGTON WITH WEU PARLIAMENTARIANS. AT A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE, KAHN-ACKERMANN SPOKE OF A "CHANGE OF CLIMATE" REGARDING THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ALLIANCE. KLEPSCH SAID "WE (THE ALLIES) HAVE NOW COME INTO THE SECOND RANK OF U.S. CONSULTATIONS"; KLEPSCH ADDED THAT THE U.S. "USES EVERY FORM OF PRESSURE ALSO AGAINST THE ALLIES." BOTH DEPUTIES EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT "WE PROBABLY WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH A REDUCTION (OF ABOUT 30,000) U.S. TROOPS IN 1975."

5. FONOFF SOURCE INFORMS US THAT MONTHLY EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON AFTERNOON MARCH 12 OR MARCH 13 IN BONN, PRIOR TO MARCH 14 REINFORCED NAC. CANADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY POLITICAL DIRECTOR (HORSTED) IS IN BONN FOR FULL DAY OF CONSULTATIONS MARCH 11. NEW BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN IS DUE HERE FOR TALKS WITH SCHEEL NEXT WEEK; GERMANS SAY THEY INTEND TO SOUND OUT CALLAGHAN ABOVE ALL ON LABOR PARTY GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS CONCERNING EC. HILLENBRAND

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